WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

2. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

3. The screening method of claim 1, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

4. The screening method of claim 1, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

5. The screening method of claim 1, which comprises cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the amounts of said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof produced under the two conditions.

6. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which

includes (a) a cell having an ability to produce said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a substance selected from the group consisting of an antibody against said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, a polynucleotide to which said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof can bind, and a transcription regulatory factor capable of interacting with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

7. The screening method of claim 1, which comprises comparing the activities of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance.

8. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which includes (a) said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a polynucleotide to which said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof can bind or a transcription regulatory factor capable of interacting with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

9 The screening method of claim 7, which comprises cultivating a cell containing a gene whose expression is controlled by a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the expressions of said gene under the two conditions.

10. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which includes (a) a cell containing a gene whose expression is controlled by said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, (b) said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to said gene under highly stringent conditions.

11. The screening method of claim 7, which comprises cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the activities of said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof under the two conditions.

12. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which includes (a) a cell having an ability to produce said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to a gene whose expression is controlled by said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof under highly stringent conditions.

13. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using a polynucleotide comprising the base

sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.

14. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using a polynucleotide comprising the base sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.

15. The screening method of claim 14, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the entire or a portion of the base sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:1.

16. The screening method of claim 14, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

17. The screening method of claim 14, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

18. The screening method of claim 14, which comprises cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the amounts of mRNA that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof under the two conditions.

19. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which includes (a) a cell having an ability to produce said

protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to mRNA that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof under highly stringent conditions.

20. A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains an antibody against said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

21. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 20, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

22. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 20, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

23. A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains a polynucleotide having a base sequence complementary to the base sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.

24. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 23, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

25. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 23, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

26. A diagnostic reagent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino

acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains an antibody against said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

27. The diagnostic reagent of claim 26, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

28. The diagnostic reagent of claim 26, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

29. A diagnostic reagent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains a polynucleotide comprising the base sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.

30. The diagnostic reagent of claim 29, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

31. The diagnostic reagent of claim 29, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

32. A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for diabetes or a renal disease, which contains a TSC-22 suppressant.

33. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 32, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.

34. A prophylactic or therapeutic method for diabetes or a renal disease in a mammal, which comprises administering a TSC-22 suppressant to said mammal.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the renal disease is

diabetic nephropathy.

36. Use of a TSC-22 suppressant for the production of a prophylactic or therapeutic agent for diabetes or a renal disease.

37. The use of claim 36, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.